

EPA REGION 3 ENVIRO-BYTES

A Wrap-Up of Issues & Events in EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region
October 14, 1999

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BACTERIA FOUND IN DOVER, DE DRINKING WATER

During routine monitoring on October 4, 6 and 12, total coliform bacteria was found in Dover, Delaware's drinking water system. These findings do not pose any imminent health threat to the public, so residents do not need to boil their water or drink bottled water. The Department of Health and Social Services is working with the water supplier to determine the cause of the positive samples. Dover City uses groundwater from a total of 21 wells. They are looking into taking samples at the wells to determine if the ground water is contaminated.

SCRANTON, PA PRIVATIZES WASTEWATER TREATMENT

On October 7, EPA Headquarters approved a request from Scranton to privatize its federally funded wastewater treatment facility. This allows the Sewer Authority of the City of Scranton to begin a 20-year agreement with AmericanAnglian for the operation, maintenance, and management of the Authority's wastewater treatment plant and sewer system. Scranton built some of its wastewater facilities with \$13 million in EPA construction grants. The agreement requires AmericanAnglian to make a one-time "concession" payment of \$6.7 million, and annual payments of \$620,000 for five years to the City of Scranton and Borough of Dunmore. They, in turn, will use these funds to repay outstanding obligations and reduce the need for immediate tax

increases.

BAY HEALTH FEATURED ON NPR'S MARK STEINER SHOW

Bay Program Scientist Dr. Kent Mountford, Chesapeake Bay Foundation President Will Baker and Maryland Biotechnology Institute researcher Dr. Gerardo Vasta were featured on National Public Radio's Mark Steiner Show for an hour-long interview and call-in show. The program explored progress and problems in the Chesapeake and the Foundation's 1999 "index" which showed slight improvements in the Bay's health. The Mark Steiner show is broadcast over NPR Affiliate 88.1 FM, WJHU on the campus of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore every weekday at noon.

HURRICANE FLOYD STILL WREAKS HAVOC IN FRANKLIN, VA

The devastation caused by Hurricane Floyd continues to plague all of Franklin, Va. Trash and debris are now piled 20 feet high along every street in downtown Franklin. No one is permitted in the downtown area without rubber boots, gloves, and dust masks. Several people have been treated at the hospital for exposures to garbage and household cleaners they are using without proper ventilation. EPA continues to help businesses and residents on a daily basis to remove hazardous substances. EPA has provided guidelines to the community regarding household hazardous waste that are being continually run on the local television networks. EPA's cleanup contractor continues to bulk containers of hazardous substances and sample for disposal.

EPA TO TEST FOR PCBS IN VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL PARK

Flooding from Hurricane Floyd washed silt from Valley Creek onto the stream banks in Valley Forge National Park outside Philadelphia and also along smaller tributary banks in residential developments upstream of the park. In response to the flooding and in cooperation with the National Park Service, EPA tasked its contractors to collect samples, to be analyzed for PCBs, from stream side depositional areas in Valley Forge Park and residential areas upstream of the park. It is suspected that PCBs may have been washed from the Paoli Rail Yard Superfund Site. Sample collection will take place immediately following the selection of the locations with the intent of having sampling results as soon as possible. EPA will evaluate the appropriate next step after the sampling results have been received.

STUDY OF REGIONAL EMERGENCIES SHOULD REVEAL TRENDS

A comparative analysis of the Region's Emergency Response Notification System data for the time periods between 1990-1993 and 1994-1997 is being done to determine what, if any, trends have

occurred within particular geographic areas and industry sectors, as well as the cause for releases and other areas. The analysis may assist in targeting resources for accident prevention efforts at particular facilities/industry sectors and/or geographic areas, as well as to show where previous prevention efforts contributed to significant release reductions.

MONSANTO TO STUDY HEIZER CREEK LANDFILL IN WVA

Under an EPA Administrative Order on Consent, Monsanto Company has agreed to perform necessary work at the Heizer Creek Landfill Site in Putnam Co., W.Va. The work specified in this Order includes identifying dioxin contamination at the site and requires the Monsanto Company to submit to EPA, for approval, an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Report which will include the extent of contamination study and a recommended removal action including cleanup levels.

EPA CITES ARCO CHEMICAL FOR REPORTING VIOLATION

On September 28, EPA filed a complaint against Arco Chemical Company's Newtown Square, Pa. facility for failure to timely submit a toxic chemical release report for chlorodifluoromethane, methylene chloride, propylene oxide, styrene, and toluene for the 1995 reporting year. The proposed penalty in the complaint is \$93,000. Toxic chemical release reports provide the basis for EPA's annual Toxic Release Inventory which is provided to the public and regulatory authorities to track pollution trends and identify pollution prevention opportunities.

EPA CITES PHILLY LANDLORD FOR LEAD DISCLOSURE VIOLATION

On September 30, EPA issued a complaint against Mr. Donald Vincent of Philadelphia, Pa. for failure to disclose to the tenant the presence of any known lead-based paint in the residence, include a statement disclosing the presence of any known lead-based paint in the lease agreement, and include a list of any records or reports available to the tenant regarding the presence of lead-based paint. The proposed penalty in the complaint is \$9,900.

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